

News Release

Governor Appoints New Director to Head the Corrections Department

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Sarah Elliott

406-444-9725

selliott@mt.gov

(HELENA) – Governor Brian Schweitzer announced today that Mike Ferriter, a 29-year veteran of Montana's correctional system, will be the new director for the Department of Corrections. Ferriter, 51, will replace Bill Slaughter on July 1. Slaughter said last week he will retire from state government at the end of June after more than 30 years in public service.

"With a tremendous amount of experience in Montana's correctional system, Mike Ferriter is a proven asset to the Department of Corrections and the State of Montana. I am honored to have him step up and take on this important new role," said Governor Schweitzer.

Ferriter has been administrator of the department's Community Corrections Division since 1995. He began his correctional career as a Youth Court officer in Great Falls in 1977. He later was parole officer, director of the Missoula Prerelease Center, probation and parole chief and chief of the Community Corrections Bureau in the Corrections Department. A Butte native, Ferriter graduated from Butte Central High School and earned a bachelor's degree in vocational rehabilitation from Eastern Montana College – now Montana State University-Billings – in 1977. He also has completed all the course work for a master's degree in public administration at the University of Montana.

"I've made the Montana Department of Corrections my career and the opportunity to complete that career as director is a natural step for me to take at this point in my life," Ferriter said. "The department faces many challenges, as do corrections agencies throughout the nation, and I'm looking forward to tackling those problems and helping direct a department that performs vital public services for Montanans every day," he said. "I'm honored by the confidence that Governor Schweitzer has shown in appointing me to this crucial position."

Slaughter praised the selection of Ferriter, saying his extensive knowledge of community corrections is a perfect match for the department's increased emphasis on expanding such services. "He's the right guy at the right time," Slaughter said.

Salary for the position is \$88,173.